



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Kingston City Hall, Date: March 8, 2016
6:30-8:30pm

Council Members:

Elizabeth Broad, Lorraine Farina (pending), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Lynn Johnson
Kevin McEvoy (Secretary, Julie Noble (Chair), Casey Schwarz

Guests: Azriel Alleyne (Freedom Solar Alliances), Alenna Henneberry (Ulster County Dept of the Environment), Krista Micelli, Nolan Bastianelli, Hugh Reynolds, Kate Hudson, (Riverkeeper via conference call for Pilgrim Pipeline agenda item)

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:33PM and explained new procedures on meeting announcements. Lorraine has now been appointed to the Council. Krista noted that today is international Women's Day.
- II. Review and Approval February 2016 Meeting Minutes :** Upon motion by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the minutes to the February meeting as amended were unanimously approved by the council members present.
- III. Old Business**
 - 1. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)**
 - i. Krista Micelli (Spring NRI Intern) update:** Krista gave an update on her comments on the mapping and the status of the Matthew Akin's work. Krista reviewed various municipalities' approaches to viewsheds and scenic resources mapping and identification including Town of Shawangunk which uses a science based approach and Tompkins County uses a public input based approach. Alenna discussed the Ulster County approach to mapping such as GIS mapping. She suggested we contact the Town of Rochester, and which is presently working on an NRI or the Town's contractor John Mickelson Emilie discussed HREP grants specific to scenic resources and suggested contacting Andrew Myer. Kevin discussed possibility of extending Matt's contract with the Kingston Land Trust and will present the matter to that board at their March meeting.
 - ii. Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) Grant Update:** Julie reported on her consultation with Laura Heady (DEC HREP), on the scope of the grant components, timeline and the Requests for Proposals (RFP) process. Julie discussed possible changes to the City of Kingston RFP process and indicated that the commencement of work to develop a scope for and RFP for the completion of the NRI is presently scheduled for the beginning of May. Krista's internship ends in mid-May.
 - 2. Pilgrim Pipeline**
 - i. Kate Hudson, Riverkeeper:** Kate attended the meeting via conference call. Kate indicated that DEC has sent a letter acknowledging the dispute over the co-lead agency proposal between DEC and the NYS Thruway Authority and set a deadline of March 21 for involved agencies to submit a request for a Commissioner's determination concerning resolution of the dispute. The Town of New Paltz so far has submitted such request but the request was deemed defective. The mechanics of implementing the proposed co-lead agency is also a matter of discussion. Kate further indicated that the proposed pipeline route has not been finally determined. It was noted that the City of Kingston has already passed a resolution regarding Pilgrim Pipeline. A meeting to discuss the Pilgrim Pipeline proposal is being organized for March 14 from 2PM to 4PM at the Rosendale

Community Center. Betta may be able to attend if another City representative cannot attend.

ii. Next steps: Kate will be contacting the Common Council Public Safety Committee before their next meeting on March 23 and ask whether any council meetings can attend the March 14 meeting in Rosendale.

3. **Kingston Meadows- review and discussion for March 14 Planning Board:** Julie reviewed previous CAC comments dated 12-7-12. Kevin discussed Kingston Land Trust recently taking title to a small parcel near to proposed access road to be used in conjunction with the O&W Rail Trail. Julie will try to obtain an updated site plan from the Planning Dept. and send that along with three previous CAC recommendations. to CAC members.

IV. **New Business**

1. **Joint Meeting with Tree Commission-Planning Dept:** Julie reviewed the timing of a joint meeting with the City of Kingston Tree Commission to be held on March 31. She noted that George Profous from DEC Urban Forestry wants to tie in the Sidewalk Committee to the tree issue. Time of the Joint Meeting with the Tree Commission is to be determined.
2. **Green Friday:** Julie presented a planning update with a scoping document prepared by Kristina Virgil (Spring Climate Smart Intern). Event is presently scheduled for Friday April 22 4PM-7PM. Betta and others suggested that the event be held on Saturday in order to maximize attendance. Betta also discussed her experiences working for the NYC Earth Day events. This year's NYC Earth Day Initiative event will be held Sunday, April 17 in the North Plaza in Union Square (Park Ave & 17th St.).
<http://earthdayinitiative.org/earth-day-new-york-2016-events>
3. **Anaerobic Digestion:** Julie recently toured the City Wastewater Treatment Plant. She reported that the Plant is already using anaerobic digestion. Julie briefly reviewed the process which presently uses two levels of anaerobic digestion. Casey discussed capturing the methane gas which is presently being used for powering the system but has the potential to be an additional community power source. Julie further described the pellet system used in the wastewater facility. Emilie discussed food waste disposers as an option for managing food waste.

V. **Announcements/Communications/Events**

1. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force meeting:** Live Well Kingston is hosting the Sidewalk Task Force on March 10 at 12:30PM at Kingston City Hall.
2. **Food Recovery, Feed 5000 Event:** Rich Schiafo of Hudson Valley Regional Council is putting together an event at 10AM on Thursday March 10 in Poughkeepsie.
3. **Clean Power NY:** Betta discussed her involvement with Clean Power NY and its renewable energy goals.

VI. **Reports**

1. **Wood Burning/Air Quality Committee (Lorraine Farina):** Lorraine gave a report concerning banning of wood burning in various municipalities and offered the following links as documentation:
2. **EMC Liaison (Emilie Hauser):** Dave Haldeman of Shawangunk will most likely be the new EMC chairperson. MannaJo Greene reported on the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee that both Betta and Azriel attend. The County Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission is finishing up its tasks to review various solid waste management options. Julie has been appointed to be the Kingston representative to the commission.

3. **Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz):** The Council discussed the Hutton Brickyard Smorgasburg project and the Davis' Sedge, a threatened species on site. The project is on the next Planning Board meeting agenda.
 - a. **Public Safety Liaison (Lynn Johnson):** See above discussion on Pilgrim Pipeline.
 - b. **Climate Smart Kingston Commission (Julie Noble):** Julie discussed the commission appointments and scheduling conflicts with first meeting date. City operations and community engagement are two aspects of the scope of the commission. Kristina Virgil, the Spring 2016 intern working on the project, is putting together timeline matrices for implementation of the energy reduction aspects of the Climate Action Plan.
 - c. **Renewables Initiatives (Betta Broad and Julie Noble):** Betta discussed the Solarize Hudson Valley campaign in Saugerties. Community Solar summit March 18th in Syracuse which Betta and Azriel will attend. Azriel brought up the micro grid feasibility study which includes HealthAlliance and City Hall within scope. Energize NY was discussed as a financing possibility. Betta discussed aggregation. Lorraine brought up community geothermal to which Kevin recounted the discussions sometime ago with Gregg Swanzey concerning the feasibility of using the Kingston Land Trust Yeomans St. site which connects to the underground mines beneath Hasbrouck Park as a location a potential geothermal community installation for a portion of Ponckhockie taking advantage of the relatively constant temperature within the mines.
 - d. **Kingston's Environmental Program (Julie Noble):** Julie indicated that her new title will be Environmental Educator and Sustainability Coordinator. A new environmental educator, Kaycee Keegan Twombly, has been hired. A Sea Level Rise Task Force grant will fund reconvening the Sea Level Rise Task Forces from the four communities, Kingston, Piermont, Catskill and Stony Point in order to move forward on implementation of the recommendations in their plans.

VIII. Adjournment: Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present unanimously adjourned at 9:03pm.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.